

Volunteers and Interns Needed to Help Conduct Visitor Surveys

The National Park Service Visitor Services Project (VSP) is looking for several people who are over 18 years of age, friendly and outgoing, like working with people, are good at basic recordkeeping, reliable, and can follow directions. No prior experience is required. Potential interviewers will receive training before starting to work on the survey project.

College students interested in earning credit for being an intern interviewer should contact the Project Coordinator (information below) with that information. A proposed course syllabus is in process with local college(s).

During Summer 2011, the National Park Service at Missouri National Recreational River will be conducting its first Visitor Services Project Survey in collaboration with the University of Idaho. The purposes of this survey project are to gather data about who our visitors and recreational users are, where they are from, and what types of services, activities, and programming they currently participate in as well as others they are interested in the National Park Service providing throughout the Recreational River Corridor which stretches from just below Fort Randall Dam near Pickstown, South Dakota to Ponca State Park in Nebraska (minus Lewis & Clark Lake).

In order to more efficiently and effectively conduct the survey, the park will be conducting pre-survey observations to determine the times and locations that will yield the best results. During the pre-survey, volunteers are needed to conduct and record observations of numbers of people using the park's various access points and facilities, such as overlooks and boat ramps. No visitor contact initiation is required for the pre-survey, but it will be for conducting the actual survey later in the summer.

*Dates and times of Pre-Survey Work: June 8-14 and June 24-30, 2011.

There will be multiple four-hour shifts that we will need assistance with during these two weeks. These include 6-10 am, 10 am – 2 pm, 2-6 pm, and 6-10 pm.

*There will be a brief training session held on June 7th to go over duties and expectations; other training times may be arranged as needed.

**Dates of Survey Work: July 28-August 3, 2011. Specific shift times and locations will be determined after the pre-survey work has been conducted and results analyzed.

These will be 8-hour shifts that include initiating visitor contacts and conducting brief 2-minute interviews with selected visitors and recreational users to determine if they are willing to take a mail-back questionnaire. The interviewer also gathers some information from the visitor. During the interview, each interviewer will be required to ask people for some personal information including age.

**There will be a required 1.5 hour training session on July 27th for all survey staff and volunteers. Time and location will be determined as we get closer to the survey dates.

For questions or more information, please contact Anne Doherty-Stephan, Project Coordinator, at 605-665-0209 x29 or via email at Anne_Doherty-Stephan@nps.gov